

February 5, 1976

PRESIDENT: Senator Frank Lewis.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, this is the fashionable motion of this year I suspect. I guess that's called "passing the buck". I think yesterday we were talking about a vote of the people. Certainly, I appreciate that. I think it's important that they vote. I assume that that may be the trend here in every tax measure we talk about, that we take that to a vote of the people. In my district some of the people said they'd like to have a vote on the budget too, by a vote of the people.

Let's look at the logistics of it. We're talking about Douglas County. I don't know if this is a special election, a general election, what the circumstances are, if the County Board can call a special election. I would anticipate that that would probably usurp as much money as you would collect, probably cost \$60,000, I think that was the figure being thrown around here once on special elections in Douglas County.

I think Senator Cavanaugh has in mind that he'd like to kill the bill. I think that's a legitimate position for him to take. I think that's the approach if that's what he wishes to do. In my judgement Senator Cavanaugh is not trying to clean up and refine this bill. In fact, I'd ask him. Senator Cavanaugh, may I ask you a question? If this amendment goes on, do you intend to support this bill?

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: It's a lot easier for me.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: That isn't what I said.

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: I have another amendment which would be necessary prior to my supporting this.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Is that to strike the enacting clause?

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: No.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Oh, I see.

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: I'd have to have the two amendments though.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Now, Mr. Chairman, again I think that we have a legitimate disagreement about the issue at hand. Senator Cavanaugh doesn't want the bill. There's some of us that think it's legitimate. I think it would be a mistake to return this bill and move it on across. However, if there's a concern in the body that this is the way we do legislation, by a vote of the people, that's being suggested by some groups now in terms of initiative and referendums that that's a vote of the people. That might be the approach too.

However, I'll tell you what I'll just do for you, I'm going to make you a deal. I'm going to keep that by a vote of the people amendment prepared and ready. If some of these other issues move across the board we'll be more than happy to vote on those by a vote of the people. I can think of a number of issues that might be interesting by a vote of the people -- some of the transportation issues we're talking about,